

REMARKS

In the Action, claim 1 was rejected under §102(b) as being anticipated by the Miller patent (U.S. No. 5,298,306). In addition, claims 2-8 were rejected under §103 as being obvious and thus unpatentable over Miller.

By this Amendment, all of the claims originally filed in the case, namely claims 1-15 have been withdrawn, with claims 9-15 being reviewed to determine whether a divisional application should be filed relative to them. In the Action, only claims 1-8 were examined, while claims 9-13 were the subject of a restriction requirement.

In claims 1-8, only claim 1 was independent. Here, claim 1 has been replaced by independent claim 16 and is believed to be allowable. Newly added claim 23 is a second independent claim and relates to another embodiment of the invention.

In accordance with new claim 16, the invention comprises a unique manufacturing process for making a unique plastic handle member, especially for use inside vehicles as grab handles. A foam core is made in a first mold, the core having integrally formed protruding attachment members on each end, the attachment members adapted for affixing the handle to a vehicle panel member through corresponding openings or holes in the panel member. Thereafter a plastic skin is overmolded over the core members.

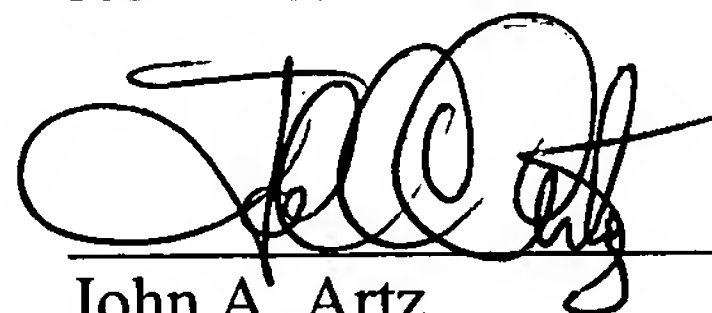
New claim 23 is similar to new claim 16, but the protruding attachment members are formed from the overmolded skin member.

The Miller reference does not disclose or suggest either of the plastic handle members set forth in new independent claims 16 and 23. Miller does not disclose any type of integral protrusions or attachment members on the ends of a foam core member, either made from the core member material (claim 16) or from the overmolded plastic skin material (claim 23).

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all of the claims remaining in the case, namely claims 16-23, are in proper form and patentably distinguish from the prior art. Accordingly, allowance of the claims and passage of the application to issuance are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John A. Artz', is written over a horizontal line.

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